

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Classification

Control:

Rec'd:

13493

MAY 18, 1960

6:18 P M

FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: CAHTO 10, MAY 18, 8 P M



SENT DEPARTMENT CAHTO, 10 REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 1084,
MOSCOW 215, BONN 513.

LONDON, MOSCOW AND BONN EYES ONLY AMBASSADORS

THE THREE WESTERN HEADS ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR FOREIGN
MINISTERS MET AT 3 P.M. YESTERDAY (MAY 17). THE MEETING
WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION SENT BY DEGAULLE AS
CHAIRMAN TO PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING KHRUSHCHEV, TO BEGIN
THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE. AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING
KHRUSHCHEV HAD NOT YET REPLIED AND IN FACT NEVER SHOWED
UP. AS IT OPENED HE SENT A TELEPHONIC MESSAGE THAT
IF THE MEETING WERE TO DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS TAKEN UP
THE DAY BEFORE HE COULD COME AFTER HE HAD HAD SOME LUNCH
AT 5 P.M. BUT THAT IF IT WERE TO DISCUSS OTHER QUESTIONS,
HE COULD NOT ATTEND.

THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO THE SITUATION AS IT HAD DEVELOPED
AND THE ATTITUDE AND STATEMENTS OF THE THREE WESTERN
POWERS IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. DE GAULLE SUMMED UP THE
SITUATION BY SAYING THAT HE HAD CALLED A SESSION OF
THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND MR. KHRUSHCHEV HAD REFUSED
TO COME AND THEREFORE THEY SHOULD FACE THE FACT THAT
THERE HAD NOT BEEN AND WOULD NOT BE ANY SUMMIT.

THE MEETING WAS CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY TELEPHONE CALLS
TO THE QUAI D'ORSAY FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY BUT TOO
CONFUSED AND COMPLICATED TO SET FORTH IN ANY DETAIL HERE.
THE MAIN POINT WAS THAT KHRUSHCHEV'S POSITION WAS THAT
HE WOULD ATTEND A MEETING WHICH WAS A PRELIMINARY
MEETING TO SEE IF CONDITIONS WOULD PERMIT A SUMMIT.

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Authority

ML 83-478-18

By

AKO

NLE Date

8/31/84

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-2-, CAHTO 10, MAY 18, 8 P M, FROM PARIS

BUT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND A CONFERENCE OF THE SUMMIT. DURING THE SESSION THE TEXT OF KHRUSHCHEV'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS REITERATING THE CONDITIONS WHICH THE US WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT BEFORE HE WOULD ATTEND THE SUMMIT WAS RECEIVED.

AT LEAST AN HOUR OF SESSION WAS TAKEN UP BY EFFORTS OF MACMILLAN TO HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE TO SEE IF KHRUSHCHEV MIGHT NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, OR FAILING THAT, TO DEMONSTRATE FOR THE RECORD AND FOR PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE WESTERN POWERS HAD GONE TO THE UTMOST LIMITS IN AN ENDEAVOR TO SAVE THE CONFERENCE. HE PARTICULARLY WISHED THE TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT MORNING AND APPROVED BY THE HEADS BE HELD UP UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING (MAY 18) TO BE PRECEDED BY A FURTHER MEETING OF THE THREE WESTERN HEADS. DE GAULLE TOOK THE LEAD IN POINTING OUT THE UNWISDOM OF THIS COURSE, THE DANGER IT MIGHT CAUSE, CONFUSION IN PUBLIC OPINION AND WOULD IN EFFECT WEAKEN THE WESTERN POSITION.

THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT SINCE HE WAS THE OBJECT OF KHRUSHCHEV'S ATTACK, HE DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR AS THOUGH THIS WAS AFFECTING HIS JUDGMENT AS TO THE MANNER OF TERMINATING THE CONFERENCE. AFTER CONSIDERABLE BACK AND FORTH DISCUSSION IT WAS FINALLY AGREED (BY MACMILLAN RELUCTANTLY) THAT DE GAULLE WOULD ISSUE A PERSONAL COMMUNIQUE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE DESCRIBING BRIEFLY THE DAY'S EVENTS WITH EMPHASIS ON KHRUSHCHEV'S ABSENCE TO BE PUBLISHED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING; THE THREE HEADS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD MEET AT 9:30 P.M. TO TAKE A FINAL LOOK AT THE COMMUNIQUE AND FAILING ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERVAL WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THE SITUATION TO RELEASE IT TO THE PRESS AT 10 P.M.

MACMILLAN HAD FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE SOLEMNITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENT THAT A MEETING OF THE HEADS WOULD INDICATE TO THE WORLD THAT THE BREAK-OFF ANNOUNCEMENT

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HAD BEEN GIVEN MOST CAREFUL AND EARNEST CONSIDERATION
AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

THE MASTERLY HANDLING OF THIS MEETING BY GENERAL DE GAULLE
WAS THE CHIEF REASON WHY A DIFFICULT SITUATION WAS FINALLY
DISPOSED OF IN THE MOST SATISFACTORY POSSIBLE MANNER.



HERTER

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